

Altering travel demand is another way to improve the operational efficiency of existing streets. Travel demand can be reduced or altered in the following ways:

1. Encourage people to form carpools and vanpools for journeys to work and other trip purposes. This reduces the number of vehicles on the roadway and raises the people carrying capability of the street system.
2. Encourage the use of transit and bicycle modes.
3. Encourage industries, businesses, and institutions to stagger work hours or establish variable work hours for employees. This will spread peak travel over a longer period and thus reduce peak hour demand.
4. Plan and encourage land use development or redevelopment in a more travel efficient manner.

System Efficiency

Another means for altering travel demand is the development of a more efficient system of streets that will better serve travel desires. A more efficient system can reduce travel distances, time, and cost to the user. Improvements in system efficiency can be achieved through the concept of functional classification of streets and development of a coordinated major street system.

Functional Classification

Streets perform two primary functions -- traffic service and land service, which when combined, are basically incompatible. The conflict is not serious if both traffic and land service demands are low. However, when traffic volumes are high, conflicts created by uncontrolled and intensely used abutting property leads to intolerable traffic flow friction and congestion.

The underlying concept of the thoroughfare plan is to provide a functional system of streets, roads, and highways that permit direct, efficient, and safe travel. Different elements in the system are designed to have specific functions and levels of service, thus minimizing the traffic and land service conflict. Streets are categorized as to function as local access streets, minor thoroughfares, or major thoroughfares.

Local Access Streets provide access to abutting property. They are not intended to carry heavy volumes of traffic and should be located such that only traffic with origins and destinations of the streets would be served. Local streets may be further classified as either residential, commercial, and/or industrial depending upon the type of land use they serve.

Minor Thoroughfares are more important streets on the city system. They collect traffic from local access streets and carry it